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WORLD WOOL PRODUCTION AND TRADE

Production

World wool production in 1970 (including the 1970-71 season in the Southern Hemisphere) is estimated at 6,214 million pounds, greasy basis--down 14 million from the 1969 high of 6,228 million.

South Africa and the USSR accounted for the decline and offset new highs estimated for Australia and New Zealand. The severe drought in South Africa reduced both the number shorn and fleece yield per animal. The second consecutive drop in the USSR resulted from a further decline in the number shorn--heavy slaughter to avert somewhat the general meat shortage last winter and the high mortality rate resulting from the prolonged severe winter into early spring 1969.

North America. Production in this region continues to decline. Wool production for 1970 is estimated at 203 million pounds, compared with 211 million in 1969 and the 1961-65 annual average of 301 million. Production in all countries registered declines from 1969 levels.

U.S. wool production in 1970 is estimated at 187.4 million pounds (including pulled wool, greasy basis), 7.5 million less than the 1969 figure of 194.9 million. This is the tenth consecutive year of declining wool production in the United States due to the sharp downward trend in sheep numbers. The first estimate of the 1970 clip of shorn wool was placed at 162 million pounds--down 2 percent from the previous season's figure of 166 million.

South America. Production increased slightly after declining for 3 consecutive years. The 1970 forecast is tentatively placed at 780 million pounds, compared with 779 million in 1969 and 799 million in 1968. All major producers expect small gains over the 1969 levels except Uruguay.

Wool production in Argentina is forecast at 440 million pounds, compared with 439 million in 1969. Higher yields attributed to excellent grazing conditions

Wool: Production in specified countries, greasy basis,
average 1961-65, annual 1968-70 1/

Continent and country	Average 1961-65	1968	1969	1970 <u>2/</u>
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
North America:				
Canada.....	6.7	3/3.5	3/3.5	3/3.4
United States <u>4/</u>	278.6	212.4	194.9	187.4
Mexico.....	12.7	11.0	9.9	9.0
Other countries.....	3.3	2.8	2.8	2.8
Total North America..	301.3	229.7	211.1	202.6
South America:				
Argentina.....	437.6	436.9	439.2	440.0
Brazil.....	61.7	87.3	75.3	79.9
Chile.....	52.3	56.0	56.7	57.0
Falkland Islands.....	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5
Peru.....	23.4	21.6	21.0	21.0
Uruguay.....	188.7	176.4	165.3	161.0
Other countries.....	16.5	16.7	16.7	16.7
Total South America..	784.9	799.4	778.7	780.1
Europe:				
Western:				
EC:				
France.....	61.3	45.1	44.4	44.9
Germany, West.....	9.3	7.3	7.7	8.0
Italy.....	30.7	29.3	29.0	28.9
Other countries.....	3.7	4.1	4.0	3.8
Total EC.....	105.0	85.8	85.1	85.6
United Kingdom.....	128.9	119.0	114.0	112.0
Greece.....	18.7	17.4	16.0	16.0
Ireland.....	25.9	22.1	21.9	21.5
Norway.....	8.6	11.4	11.0	11.0
Portugal.....	28.2	28.2	29.3	28.7
Spain.....	80.6	76.1	73.7	81.6
Other countries.....	10.1	10.9	10.2	10.8
Total Western Europe.	406.0	370.9	361.9	367.2
Eastern:				
Bulgaria.....	53.3	63.7	61.2	60.0
Germany, East.....	16.8	17.2	16.3	15.4
Hungary.....	21.2	24.0	23.4	23.4
Poland.....	17.2	19.4	19.0	16.0
Romania.....	51.5	67.4	67.0	64.7
Yugoslavia.....	28.4	29.8	28.7	28.0
Other countries.....	9.4	11.0	12.7	13.0
Total Eastern Europe.	197.8	232.5	228.3	220.5
Total Europe.....	603.8	603.4	590.2	587.7

Wool: Production in specified countries, greasy basis,
average 1961-65, annual 1968-70 (continued)

Continent and country	Average 1961-65	1968	1969	1970 ^{2/}
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
USSR.....	794.2	911.4	860.0	835.0
Africa:				
Morocco.....	31.1	33.1	37.5	40.0
South Africa ^{5/}	348.1	334.5	352.0	320.0
Other countries.....	48.4	49.5	49.5	49.5
Total Africa.....	427.6	417.1	439.0	409.5
Asia:				
Iran.....	39.7	43.0	43.7	43.2
Iraq.....	23.0	29.0	29.0	30.0
Turkey.....	93.9	103.6	105.8	104.7
Arab Republic.....	20.7	28.0	28.0	28.0
India.....	76.2	81.6	77.2	79.4
Pakistan.....	33.2	46.0	45.0	45.0
Other countries.....	208.8	240.2	242.0	241.9
Total Asia.....	495.5	571.4	570.7	572.2
Oceania:				
Australia.....	1,720.5	1,947.8	2,043.4	2,086.8
New Zealand.....	628.4	732.0	735.0	740.0
Total Oceania.....	2,348.9	2,679.8	2,778.4	2,826.8
Total World.....	5,756.2	6,212.2	6,228.1	6,213.9

^{1/} Includes shorn, pulled wool, and wool exported on skins with the latter two converted to a greasy basis. Wool produced in the spring in the Northern Hemisphere is combined with that produced in the season beginning July 1 or October 1 of the same year in the Southern Hemisphere. ^{2/} Preliminary.
^{3/} Does not include pulled wool. ^{4/} Includes pulled wool converted to a greasy basis using 1.7 conversion factor. ^{5/} Includes Republic of South Africa, Lesotho, and South West Africa.

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resulted in a slight gain despite the reduction in the number shorn. A further decline in numbers on farms revised downward the forecast for Uruguay. In Brazil, however, production continues to set new highs, particularly in Rio Grande do Sul, where sheep numbers are increasing.

Europe. Production in Western Europe is estimated at 367 million pounds--up slightly from the 362 million figure for 1969. Spain accounted for most of the gain and more than offset declines in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Portugal.

In Eastern Europe, excluding the USSR, production is expected to drop for the second consecutive year to 221 million pounds from the 1968 high of 233 million. Heavy slaughter during late 1969 and early 1970, in addition to the prolonged severe winter into the early spring of 1969, reduced numbers on farms for shearing. Production in the USSR is estimated at 835 million pounds, compared with 860 million in 1969 and the 1968 high of 911 million. This second consecutive drop in production resulted from a further decline in the number shorn--heavy slaughter to avert somewhat the general meat shortage last winter and the high mortality rate resulting from the prolonged severe winter into the early spring of 1969.

Africa. This region's production is forecast at 410 million pounds--down 6.7 percent from the preceding year's figure of 439 million. South Africa accounted for the drop resulting from forced slaughter caused by the severe drought. Production in this country is forecast at 320 million pounds, compared with 352 million in 1969.

Asia. Total production in 1970 is forecast at 572 million pounds, or almost no change from the previous year's figure of 571 million. Countries showing gains over 1969 include Iraq and India, whereas production in Turkey and Iran is expected to drop slightly.

Oceania. Production for 1970 is forecast at 2,827 million pounds, greasy basis. This is a 1.7 percent increase over the 2,778 million produced in 1969. This area now produces 45.5 percent of the world's wool, compared with 40.8 percent during the 1961-65 period.

Production in New Zealand is forecast at 740 million pounds--up slightly from the 735 million produced in 1969. The effects of the drought and shortages of winter feed are expected to reduce average fleece yields. However, the larger number shown are expected to offset the lower weight per fleece.

The first forecast for wool production in Australia for the 1970-71 season is placed at 2,086.8 million pounds, greasy basis--up 2.1 percent from the recently revised 1969-70 figure of 2,043.4 million. Sheep numbers on farms set a new high of 181.3 million head on March 31, 1970. This was an increase of 3.8 percent from the 174.6 million head on farms last year.

Trade

World imports in 1969 totaled 3.35 billion pounds of wool, actual weight, 3 percent above the 3.25 billion pounds in 1968. Eight countries account for 82 percent of total imports. Japan is the world's largest importer, followed by the United Kingdom, France, Italy, the United States, West Germany, Belgium, and the USSR. Combined imports for these countries accounted for 40 percent of the absolute increase of 1969 world imports compared with those of 1968. Among the larger importing countries Japan had the largest absolute year-to-year increase, and France, with imports up nearly 15 percent, had the greatest relative increase. U.S. imports were down nearly 25 percent, while imports dropped 5 percent in the United Kingdom.

North America. This area is a net importer of raw wool, but imports dropped in all the principal countries during 1969. U.S. imports, at 250 million pounds, were 81 million pounds less than in 1968; Canada's imports were down about 3.4 million pounds, or 19 percent, from 1968.

South America. Exports predominate in the wool trade in South America, except in Colombia, which generally imports 7 to 9 million pounds yearly. Argentina's and Uruguay's exports were off sharply in 1969, whereas increases were noted in Brazil and Chile.

Europe. Europe is the largest importer in the world, although exports of raw wool, wool tops, and reexports of wool pulled from imported pelts are important to some countries.

The European Community countries increased wool trade in 1969, both in imports, which were up 8 percent, and exports up 3.6 percent. All EC countries had larger imports, with France leading with imports up nearly 15 percent. Italy was the only country showing a drop in exports.

The United Kingdom continued as the world's second largest wool importer in 1969, although imports dropped 27 million pounds below the 1968 level and 86 million pounds below the 1961-65 average. The United Kingdom and the EC countries account for most of West Europe's exports. These countries export large quantities of wool tops with France reexporting raw wool pulled from imported pelts. Ireland and Spain are the region's other main exporters, with their wools coming from animals of domestic origin.

Eastern Europe is a net importer of wool, with East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia the major importers. Exports were about 7 percent of imports in 1969, making the ratio about the same as in 1968.

The Soviet Union continues to be a net importer of wool, with imports up 11 million pounds and exports down nearly 5 million pounds in 1969 compared with the previous year.

Wool (actual weight): International trade, average 1961-65, annual 1967-69

Continent and country	Average 1961-65		1967		1968 1/		1969 1/	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
North America:								
Canada.....	3,294	18,535	2,610	17,157	2,329	18,629	1,835	15,204
United States.....	2,270	343,962	2,102	249,506	2,543	330,438	2,196	249,519
Mexico.....	0	21,473	0	29,509	0	32,921	0	31,745
Total North America....	3,564	383,970	2,712	296,172	2,872	381,988	2,031	296,468
South America:								
Argentina.....	282,799	0	248,500	0	290,200	0	222,560	0
Brazil.....	15,112	2,353	42,521	1,550	38,398	2,767	44,540	2,900
Chile.....	15,260	1,763	11,698	3,300	18,067	3,300	23,803	2,205
Colombia.....	0	9,877	0	7,195	---	---	---	---
Falkland Islands.....	4,879	0	4,600	0	---	---	---	---
Peru.....	6,066	11	5,536	128	8,700	110	6,134	100
Uruguay.....	107,110	0	98,653	0	114,187	0	84,348	0
Total South America 3/.	431,226	14,004	411,508	12,173	474,552	13,177	386,385	12,205
Europe:								
Western:								
EC:								
Belgium and Luxembourg:	45,556	226,866	33,345	182,003	34,632	204,964	36,819	213,262
France.....	76,495	354,986	66,411	275,978	83,643	310,152	85,374	355,572
Germany, West.....	9,956	225,195	9,460	181,720	10,130	225,830	11,885	241,307
Italy.....	7,311	282,858	4,608	292,862	5,596	281,282	4,962	299,355
Netherlands.....	10,632	31,615	12,114	27,888	10,350	29,360	10,518	30,672
Total EC.....	149,950	1,121,520	125,938	960,451	144,351	1,051,588	149,558	1,140,168
Austria.....	351	14,948	139	9,040	100	10,669	364	11,248
Denmark.....	1,705	6,391	1,652	7,014	1,088	6,930	999	7,849
Finland.....	10	3,283	10	4,570	10	3,854	10	3,200
Greece.....	143	4,436	20	6,457	220	9,480	260	10,030
Iceland.....	944	160	82	200	---	---	---	---
Ireland.....	22,778	12,091	19,275	12,828	21,048	17,650	18,670	17,776
Norway.....	2,701	3,292	4,182	3,662	5,341	3,934	4,071	4,034
Portugal.....	1,520	12,022	3	13,574	86	17,709	110	---
Spain.....	4,344	20,567	3,772	22,959	8,131	30,849	6,023	46,672
Sweden.....	1,606	10,904	1,373	8,715	1,133	7,770	783	7,130
Switzerland.....	862	14,678	1,076	12,960	1,160	12,397	1,240	9,953
United Kingdom.....	56,928	604,124	38,741	517,329	43,877	544,999	39,000	518,000
Total Western Europe 3/.	243,842	1,828,416	196,263	1,579,759	227,245	1,718,079	221,878	1,793,260
Eastern:								
Bulgaria.....	0	3,440	0	5,255	0	6,920	0	---
Czechoslovakia.....	0	46,720	0	37,500	0	46,300	0	---
Germany, East.....	0	50,500	0	42,420	0	48,050	0	48,630
Hungary.....	1,585	7,085	4,592	12,200	5,000	13,600	6,000	9,500
Poland.....	0	37,042	0	36,458	0	37,732	---	---
Romania.....	2,180	2,540	3,300	4,000	5,300	4,400	---	---
Yugoslavia.....	899	27,004	1,095	27,709	1,889	28,979	2,256	37,159
Total Eastern Europe 3/.	4,664	174,331	8,987	165,542	12,189	135,931	13,556	190,689
Total Europe 3/.....	248,506	2,002,747	205,250	1,745,301	239,434	1,904,060	235,434	1,983,949
USSR.....	56,920	107,020	41,200	108,500	57,320	156,066	52,469	167,109

Wool (actual weight): International trade, average 1961-65, annual 1967-69 (continued)

Continent and country	Average 1961-65		1967		1968 <u>1/</u>		1969 <u>1/</u>	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Africa:								
Algeria.....	337	660	854	1,057	990	2,339	---	---
Libya.....	1,496	0	650	0	---	---	---	---
Morocco.....	3,849	458	1,235	577	1,164	1,048	1,175	556
Tunisia.....	420	270	18	410	0	595	---	---
UAR, Egypt.....	16	2,764	100	7,500	194	9,687	100	15,900
Kenya.....	2,973	41	3,126	0	3,964	0	4,015	0
South Africa <u>4/</u>	260,911	8,630	232,625	7,721	254,087	6,983	258,583	8,842
Total Africa <u>3/</u>	270,002	12,823	238,608	17,265	262,399	20,652	268,273	26,898
Asia:								
Cyprus.....	1,084	0	673	0	1,545	0	784	0
Iran.....	7,419	4,031	3,926	17,004	3,100	19,201	---	---
Iraq.....	9,720	364	7,600	900	7,300	400	8,300	1,000
Israel.....	120	2,162	26	4,923	18	7,233	2	8,200
Jordan.....	298	916	199	157	40	88	---	---
Lebanon.....	7,796	5,046	14,676	10,974	12,079	10,481	---	---
Turkey.....	10,072	21,340	4,482	18,562	4,821	17,322	2,740	18,691
Syrian Arab Republic..	12,566	265	16,127	286	13,287	418	12,826	1,355
China:								
Mainland.....	34,452	32,118	21,300	32,500	26,500	22,900	---	---
Taiwan.....	0	3,056	38	11,017	100	6,900	100	26,900
Afghanistan.....	10,369	0	7,651	0	11,377	0	---	---
India.....	24,630	14,328	19,857	30,756	19,883	25,831	17,480	36,107
Japan.....	880	520,477	548	596,869	531	647,123	617	696,165
Korea, Republic of....	0	5,374	0	4,700	0	5,931	0	8,563
Pakistan.....	25,574	1,320	21,019	1,600	23,700	1,700	20,614	1,845
Total Asia <u>3/</u>	144,980	610,797	118,122	730,248	124,281	765,528	116,803	845,616
Oceania:								
Australia.....	1,166,540	7,780	1,457,780	8,300	1,516,300	9,000	1,622,920	15,200
New Zealand.....	553,520	1,800	453,400	1,300	647,400	1,300	713,900	4,000
Total Oceania <u>3/</u> ...	1,720,060	9,580	1,911,180	9,600	2,163,700	10,300	2,336,820	19,200
Total world <u>3/5/</u> ...	2,875,258	3,140,941	2,928,580	2,919,259	3,324,558	3,251,791	3,398,215	3,351,445

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Washed, scoured or clean basis. 3/ Includes allowances for missing data for countries shown.

4/ Includes exports from South West Africa. 5/ Excludes wool on skins, re-exports where possible; imports in most cases refer to gross imports.

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Africa. This region continues as a large net exporter of wool. South Africa is the major producer-exporter in this region. Exports in 1969 totaled nearly 259 million pounds, or 7.6 percent of total world exports for the year. Egypt is the area's largest importer, taking nearly 10 million pounds in 1969.

Asia. This area is a net importer. Exports are important to such countries as Pakistan, India, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.

Japan's imports increased sharply again in 1969 to 656 million pounds, setting a new alltime high. Japan is the world's largest importer, taking about 21 percent of the world total. Other Asian importers include India, Taiwan, Iran, Turkey, and Lebanon.

Oceania. The world's two largest producer exporters are located in Oceania. Australian exports in 1969, at 1.6 billion pounds, represented nearly half of the world's exports, and New Zealand's, at 714 million pounds, accounted for 21 percent. Both countries' imports were up 80 percent in 1969, totaling 19.2 million pounds, which was double the 1961-65 average.

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